Amendments to the Claims

1-2. (Canceled)

3 . (Currently Amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a plurality of TDM data columns:

receiving a plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the data packets into one or more TDM packet columns;

and combining the TDM packet columns with a first subset of the TDM data columns to form a data payload of an outgoing TDM data frame;

wherein a TDM packet column includes a high priority data packet and a low priority data packet; and

~~The method of claim 2,~~ wherein the receiving a plurality of TDM data columns further comprises receiving an incoming TDM data frame containing a second subset of TDM data columns.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the receiving a plurality of TDM data columns further comprises receiving a third subset of TDM data columns from a TDM user interface.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising separating the second subset of TDM data columns into a plurality of DROP TDM data columns and a plurality of THROUGH TDM data columns.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising sending a DROP TDM data columns to a TDM user interface.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains the through TDM data columns.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains a third subset of TDM data columns from the TDM user interface.

9. (Currently amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a plurality of TDM data columns:

receiving a plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the data packets into one or more TDM packet columns;

and combining the TDM packet columns with a first subset of the TDM data columns to form a data payload of an outgoing TDM data frame;

wherein a TDM packet column includes a high priority data packet and a low priority data packet; and

~~The method of claim 2,~~ wherein the receiving a plurality of data packets further comprises receiving an incoming TDM data frame containing a second subset of data packets.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the receiving a plurality of data packets Further comprises receiving a third subset of data packets from a packet user interface.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising separating the second subset of data packets as DROP data packets and THROUGH data packets.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the DROP data packets are sent to a packet user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains the THROUGH data packets.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains a third subset of data packets from a packet user interface.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the TDM packet columns and the TDM data columns are interleaved within the payload.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a first plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a first plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the first plurality of data packets into a first group of TDM packet columns;

combining the first group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the first plurality of TDM data columns to form a first data payload of a first TDM data frame;

receiving a second plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a second plurality of data packets;

transforming a first subset of the second plurality of data packets into a second group of TDM packet columns; and

combining the second group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the second plurality of TDM data columns to form a second data payload of a second TDM data frame; and

~~The method of claim 16,~~ wherein the first data payload is larger than the second data payload.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a first plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a first plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the first plurality of data packets into a first group of TDM packet columns;

combining the first group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the first plurality of TDM data columns to form a first data payload of a first TDM data frame;

receiving a second plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a second plurality of data packets;

transforming a first subset of the second plurality of data packets into a second group of TDM packet columns; and

combining the second group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the second plurality of TDM data columns to form a second data payload of a second TDM data frame; and

~~The method of claim 16,~~ wherein the first subset of the first plurality of TDM data columns is larger than the first subset of the second plurality of TDM data columns.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a first plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a first plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the first plurality of data packets into a first group of TDM packet columns;

combining the first group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the first plurality of TDM data columns to form a first data payload of a first TDM data frame;

receiving a second plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a second plurality of data packets;

transforming a first subset of the second plurality of data packets into a second group of TDM packet columns; and

combining the second group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the second plurality of TDM data columns to form a second data payload of a second TDM data frame; and

~~The method of claim 16,~~ wherein the first group of TDM packet columns is larger than the second group of TDM packet columns.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

receiving a first plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a first plurality of data packets,

transforming a first subset of the first plurality of data packets into a first group of TDM packet columns;

combining the first group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the first plurality of TDM data columns to form a first data payload of a first TDM data frame;

receiving a second plurality of TDM data columns;

receiving a second plurality of data packets;

transforming a first subset of the second plurality of data packets into a second group of TDM packet columns; and

combining the second group of TDM packet columns with a first subset of the second plurality of TDM data columns to form a second data payload of a second TDM data frame; and

~~The method of claim 16,~~ wherein a TDM packet column includes a high priority data packet and a low priority data packet.

21 - 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A system for combining TDM data and data packets comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of TDM data columns;

means for receiving a plurality of data packets,

means for transforming a first subset of the data packets into one or more TDM packet columns; and

means for combining the TDM packet columns with a first subset of the TDM data columns to form a data payload of an outgoing TDM data frame;

wherein a TDM packet column includes a high priority data packet and a low priority data packet; and

~~The system of claim 32,~~ wherein the means for receiving a plurality of TDM data columns further comprises means for receiving an incoming TDM data frame containing a second subset of TDM data columns.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the means for receiving a plurality of TDM data columns further comprises means for receiving a third subset of TDM data columns from a TDM user interface.

35. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising means for separating the second subset of TDM data columns into a plurality of DROP TDM data columns and a plurality of THROUGH TDM data columns.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for sending the plurality of DROP TDM data columns to the TDM user interface.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains the through TDM data columns.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the outgoing TDM data frame contains a third subset of TDM data columns from the TDM user interface.

39. (Currently Amended) A system for combining TDM data and data packets comprising;

means for receiving a plurality of TDM data columns;

means for receiving a plurality of data packets,

means for transforming a first subset of the data packets into one or more TDM packet columns; and

means for combining the TDM packet columns with a first subset of the TDM data columns to form a data payload of an outgoing TDM data frame;

wherein a TDM packet column includes a high priority data packet and a low priority data packet; and

~~The system of claim 32,~~ wherein the means for receiving a plurality of data packets further comprises means for receiving an incoming TDM data frame containing a second subset of data packets.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the means for receiving a plurality of data packets further comprises means for receiving a third subset of data packets from a packet user interface.